

Gus Genakis

Q: Gus, where did your family come from in Greece?

A: My father came from Kalamata. My mother came from Jafki, J-A-F-K-I.

Q: Where was Kennedy? The Peleponoisos, but they're southern...

A: Yeah, not too far from there. That's the first time I had ever been (inaudible) but my father was Kalamata, and then he (inaudible).

Q: What prompted them to come to America? What prompted everybody?

A: What prompted everybody? A better life. My grandfather came, they brought him over. My mother came over when she was six years old.

Q: When did your grandfather arrive in the United States?

A: (inaudible) -- no that's my father, that's when he was born.

Q: He was born here, or...?

A: He was born over there in 1908. 1910, my mother was born in 1908.

Q: And when did they come to the United States?

A: In 1929.

Q: Now, your grandfather came first?

A: Grandfather came first.

Q: And when did he come?

A: My grandfather lived in New York.

Q: And when did he bring your father over?

A: No, he brought my mother.

Q: Oh, he brought your mother over. Who did your father come with?

A: He probably came with his brothers (inaudible) she was six years old, so, she was born in 1908 -- she came in 1902.

Q: She came in 1902, she was born here?

A: No, I'm sorry.

Q: OK, take your time.

A: She came when she was six years old, and she was born in 1908. She came in 1914.

Q: But her father was here?

A: Her father was here.

Q: You don't know what year he came?

A: No.

Q: Did he come through Ellis Island?

A: They all came through Ellis Island.

Q: Your mother too?

A: My mother came, yeah. (inaudible)

Q: OK, that would be great. What were they doing in Virginia?

A: My brother? He lives there. He has a house there -- he lives here in East Brunswick, he works for the New York Times, so he goes back and forth, and he's trying to sell that house now, of course everybody's up here now.

Q: (inaudible) any family members down in Virginia?

A: No.

Q: The original point of entry was Ellis Island for all of them? Father and your mother?

A: Right.

Q: When did your father come here?

A: According to the (inaudible), 1910.

Q: He came in 1910?

A: Yes.

Q: And how old was he?

A: My father in 1908. I really don't know --

Q: All right, let's go on. When did they come into Newark.

A: They settled in Newark in 1929.

Q: Now, your mother came over here, why did they come --

A: New York. From Ellis Island.

Q: If her grandfather was in New York...

A: Yeah, they lived in New York forever. I don't know why they ever came here.

Q: All right, let's go on. When did they settle in Newark?

A: 1929. I'm trying to wonder if they did come from New York to here, because we are originally from Lowell.

Q: Massachusetts, that's where a lot of people from California since went up to Massachusetts.

A: My brother Steve was born up there. We were born here, but they went to Massachusetts, I guess because we had some relatives, and then my father's relatives were all from up there, so they had a business up there.

Q: What kind of business did they have?

A: A trucking business.

Q: And then they came down?

A: They got married and they came down in --

Q: How did they meet?

A: I don't know if my brother's got all that down. He should have all these answers down.

Q: Oh, all right, so he give -- all right, that's fine. You were born in Newark, right? And how many children were there?

A: There were six of us. One died at three years old. There's five of us.

Q: And where did you live in Newark?

A: Just above Warren Street School in Warren Street.

Q: All the time that you lived in North, you lived there?

A: That's where I was born, next to the church that's up there. And then we moved down to Warren Street just below Summer Street.

Q: What church were you born near?

A: It was a black church. You know the Warren Street School? It's right on Warren Street. It's near Norfolk Street -- and Warren Street. Then we moved down to Warren Street, between High Street and Summer Street, near the high school, Central High School. From there, we went up to [Alprespic?] Avenue.

Q: That was still Newark, right?

A: That was still Newark, yeah.

Q: What schools did you go to?

A: Warren Street School, Central Avenue School, Central High School.

Q: And how many siblings were there? So you said there were five.

A: Right, three boys, two girls.

Q: All right, where did your brothers go to? And your sisters?

A: They all went to the same schools.

Q: They all went to the same schools. What happened after you graduated from high school?

A: I went to work for Curtis Wright. Before that I was working for (inaudible) Curtis Wright.

Q: And your brothers and sisters?

A: They graduated, my brother Tony became an FBI agent. My brother Steve wants to go to school out of Arizona -- he never came back. Stayed out there and didn't come back. My sisters went (inaudible).

Q: I'm going to come back. At the time that you were going to school, what did you do after school? Was it a (inaudible) that you lived in, what kind of --

A: Two-family house.

Q: Two-family house. OK. Were there any Greeks around the area?

A: Oh yeah, they were all Greeks there. In the corner was a pharmacist, Juliano Drugstore, there was nothing but Greeks and Italians in there -- (inaudible) but that whole block, from where we were, High Street, all the way up, was Greeks and Italians.

Q: (inaudible)?

A: Yeah. A couple of houses there. And across the street was Greeks. Down the street was Greek. We just hung out.

Q: All right, did you belong to any Greek or American organizations at the time that you were growing up, that you lived in Newark?

A: I belong to Sons of Pericles, and this Greek Democratic Club. We have the diners --

Q: It will come back.

A: We used to have diners all over the place (inaudible) Spencer's...? Scotty's! Scotty's diners.

Q: (inaudible) Greek, right? Menzo's? Did he live in Newark?

A: No.

Q: But you belonged to a democratic one?

A: Yeah.

Q: All right. To what church did you belong, in Newark?

A: Saint Demetrius.

Q: How did you get to belong to Saint Demetrius?

A: My family belonged there, I was baptized there...

Q: Did your family have a business in Newark?

A: No.

Q: What did your father do?

A: He was a waiter -- after they came down from Massachusetts they got rid of the trucking business and (inaudible).

Q: Did mom do anything?

A: Yeah, took care of us.

Q: That's very true, that's very true.

A: It's a job too.

Q: Did you work for any Greek-Americans, growing up?

A: Yeah, when I was about eight years old I used to work for a grocery store. I used to go to school, walk on the other side so I wouldn't have to go to work, and he would be waiting outside and he would tell me hey, (inaudible) and come on.

Q: And who was that?

A: (inaudible) they had a Greek store right on the corner of Warren Street and Summer Street, and that's all -- from there I went to work for a florist.

Q: Oh, so you didn't work for any other Greek-Americans.

M1: You did, you worked for Charlie [Melis?] too didn't you?

Q: Oh that's right. I worked for this company for a couple of years.

M1: And your brother stayed there?

Q: My brother stayed there too.

Q: How about your sisters? And your other brother?

A: No. They didn't work there. Until after they got out of school.

Q: All right. Were you the oldest?

A: No, the youngest. No, I was the middle one, the next one. My brother Steve was the eldest.

Q: OK, give me some idea of the family life in Newark.

A: At that time it was real good. It was all Greeks around, we all went out together. We went to Saint Nicholas (inaudible) church -- good times. (inaudible) if you went to the dance, you danced, if you didn't, you sat on the side, but you went with the family. I like the day you go, I don't go. It was good times, we really had good times. We didn't have any cars, and we got to more places than we do when we've got the cars.

Q: Who were your good friends when you were living in Newark?

A: Stewart Poulez. Rick Soyers, Harry Soyers -- we used to pal around together. (inaudible)

Q: Is that Manny Lousanti --

A: His brother.

Q: His brother? They lived in Newark?

A: They lived right on the other side of Central Avenue on Summer Street (inaudible) we'd all go to the church with the youth organization, then we'd all end up at the pizza place on Eighth Avenue and -- what's that avenue --

Q: Oh, C?

A: No no. The Italian restaurant.

M1: La Quiglia?

A: Oh god. We used to go there. That's where we ended up. At Pizza --

Q: And this is while you were in the Sons of Pericles?

A: (inaudible).

Q: How did you meet Tony? I'm going to come back...

A: Through the youth. The youth organization. One of the affairs that we had.

M1: What was the name of the Greek organization that Saint Demetrius had, that you organized for the church there?

A: Not the Hellenic Youth -- Greek-Americans -- we played bingo. They had a good organization. They used to meet, have dances...

M1: (inaudible) fundraiser.

A: It was not the Hellenic, it was called something else. It will come to me.

Q: All right. When it comes, it comes. Give me some more about the traditions, the culture -- any contributions (inaudible) besides this -- what about the churches, and your involvement...

A: Churches. Started out on New Street. We have a small church (inaudible).

Q: You were a baddy?

A: I was chewing gum. And he called me up, (inaudible) come on inside. I went inside, he said, "Take the gum out of your mouth." Then he made me sit in front of the (inaudible). Jesus Christ, the whole (inaudible) then from there we went up to High School, of course, from Central High.

M1: 13 years an altar boy?

A: Yeah, I went to the altar when I was seven years old. And then we went and bought the place on High Street and New Street. Where the AAA building used to be. And from there

we went down to Hay Circle down there. Hayvon Avenue -- not Hayvon Avenue -- Flynn Avenue and Church. Flynn Avenue and --

Q: That's the church I remember. Actually, my aunt was very involved in that church. Originally, she was (inaudible).

A: The name of our organization was the Hellenic Philanthropic Society.

Q: Hellenic -- and what did it do?

A: (inaudible) we were a fundraiser. We would go about three or four times a month and raise \$1,000 and take it to the churches, and we used to give them the money. But then the bishop made a complaint, he said I want the money.

(inaudible) we had dinners, we had a fundraiser at the Arch

(inaudible) it was fantastic. You had to get rid of these people, they were blocking up all of March Avenue. All the money we made went to the church -- and we had some good times, we went all over the place. We went more places when we didn't have our cars...

Q: How did you get around?

A: Buses. Or if somebody had a car, then cars. Thomas' (inaudible) they had the famous restaurant, it was called Benny's Lunch Hour on West Market Street (inaudible) we'd

take buses, and we would go on the ferries. I think we had a better time than we do today.

Q: Because the community was together?

A: There was so many Greeks together, that's why no-one ever wanted to move out of Newark. They thought it would be there forever.

Q: When your parents and your grandparents arrived here, did anyone help them? Except for family members, that was it? No Greek-American helped them, no American helped them... they did it all themselves, right?

A: Work. That was it.

Q: Your life centered around the Greek-American community.

A: Yes.

Q: Were you involved at all in the larger [NUR?] community? Any members of your family?

A: As far as what?

Q: I don't know. Involved in the politics of the [NUR?] community, involved in the organization of the [NUR?] community...

A: No.

Q: Do you remember any (inaudible) that debates were involved in?

A: With the (inaudible) raising money they were down there.
The kids would get involved, we had cart races.
Thanksgiving -- we had a lot of parades. We'd all be
hanging out. We had some good parades right down Westmont.
(inaudible) church.

Q: The American Legion, you were involved with the American
Legion after you came back?

A: After service.

Q: And you did what in Newark with the American Legion? You
had card races?

A: No, the cart races were (inaudible), they used to start on
High Street (inaudible) where it used to be water and it
dried out. Now it's a street. They used to make them, and
every Thanksgiving we'd have the parade, we'd have these
cart races.

Q: And what was the purpose of that?

A: To get together, amuse yourself --

(break in audio)

Q: -- think Greek school, how many years did you go to Greek
school, or what was it like going to Greek school? Tell me
like it is today -- five days a week?

A: With two hours. (inaudible) went through quite a few years. We went from first grade to graduated. The classes were crowded, we were a lot of kids --

M1: Who taught Greek school?

A: (inaudible) [Sifa?] She was with Saint Demetrius, and she was sent (inaudible). We had father Nikolaiki when we were on New Street. Little church, and he (inaudible) double-barrel thing and he was fooling around, he was playing, hit him right on the head with it.

M1: How about Greek plays, did you have to take (inaudible)?

A: Oh yeah.

M2: Do you remember the Ukrainian Center by [Seneca?]?

A: We have many plays there.

M1: They used to have plays in the Ukranian Center?

A: Yes, yes. Every time we would have a dance, we would have a play. A lot of people were involved in that...

M1: Who taught the plays, Greek School, or...?

A: Yeah, the Greek School teachers, and they had this other girl who was Jerry [Platis?] (inaudible) sword fights.

M1: Harry Zoukaris was a noted fencer (inaudible) he went to Greek School?

A: He went there when I was a schoolteacher (inaudible).

M1: They always had something to do.

Q: What was Olga's maiden name?

A: Bukabalis. My brother had the restaurant on High Street with George and Jim (inaudible) Sterling Street, but it goes from the courthouse. It was on Sterling and High Street. Right in the corner there was George Bukabalis. And Jimmy Polakos.

M1: Where the twins used to live, that's Sterling Street?

A: Right in the corner.

M2: Quite a few Greeks out there.

A: Yeah.

M1: Let me ask you now -- growing up in Newark -- and most of your friends were Greek?

A: 99% of them.

M1: 99%? Give us a typical day in Newark, coming home from school. What was it like? And say you're in the 9th grade, coming home.

A: Came home, shed my clothes, (inaudible) catch me to go to work. We sat outside, we would go out bike-riding, we sat and played some cards on the steps, we played handball, we used to go to sometimes, two movies in one day.

M1: What movie house did you go to, when you went to the movies?

A: Paramount (inaudible).

M1: Where was that located?

A: West Market Street. All Greek films. Came out and played on Tuesday nights.

Q: I guess the theatres at that time did that, because I remember going to Springfield Avenue.

A: (inaudible) Springfield Avenue?

Q: No, it was the Ritz.

M1: The Ritz Theatre.

Q: No.

M1: We used to go to that one too.

Q: We used to walk there. My parents used to take us on Saturday.

M1: Every Tuesday the Greeks would patronize the court theatre?

Q: Because it was (inaudible) night, amateur night.

A: (inaudible) nothing but Greeks and a few Italians there, so who was going to go to the movies and support them?

M1: Oh, something about -- what was it like during the holidays? Yeah (inaudible), preparation.

A: Well, we had such a small church. We used to go to High Street and West Market Street, which I think it was a

Presbyterian Church. We would pack everything up in the church, and we would go set up there, and our services would help there.

Q: That was right across from the [Rutley?] Hotel?

A: [Rutley?] Hotel, right. We used to have a lot of the priests for (inaudible).

Q: From what churches?

A: Non-orthodox.

Q: Non-orthodox, right.

A: At that time, we had one of the best choirs out. Both sides were full. The church would get full. We would come out on Holy Friday, walking down the other way to -- where [Rubber Coffee?] was.

M1: That's Market Street.

A: No. It was the next block over. We used to go across High Street, down that street, all the way down Plant Street past -- what do you call it -- (inaudible) they had the Greek newspapers.

Q: (inaudible).

A: (inaudible) across Plant Street and up West Market Street back in the church.

Q: Is that Holy Friday?

A: Holy Friday (inaudible).

Q: And how did your family prepare for the holy week, what did you...?

A: Well, we went to services every day. We communed whenever they had it. Then, Holy Saturday (inaudible) leave two, three, four o'clock in the morning. Out came the blanket on the floor and that's where I slept.

Q: Let me ask you something, did you say when you went to Holy Saturday, as children too, did you all go to church and stay for the liturgy, and then came home and the -- had what?

A: [Greek] lamb, we had the eggs, (inaudible).

M1: Who did all the cooking?

A: My mom made everything.

M1: And she made pastries?

A: Everybody would bring the pastries, I remember because my aunt -- my mom had her two sisters in New York, so they came over. Two beds in our room, (inaudible) we had no place to go (inaudible).

Q: Did you fast during the week?

A: Yes. Five days, no nothing.

Q: Nothing. What did you eat?

A: Nothing, I had no rice... we wouldn't eat any oil, no eggs
--

Q: No dairy products?

A: Dairy products.

Q: You fasted the whole week for five days before you went to your communion? What church -- you went to every church service. You would go from Monday through Saturday? Did you ever go to the [Azapi] on Sunday as children?

A: (inaudible).

Q: On Sunday?

A: On Sunday.

Q: Right. Did you go on Friday afternoon, to go, as children, to go to the [epitafio?] and to put flowers on the [epitafio?]?

A: We'd put all the flowers on. (inaudible) we went morning services, night services.

Q: And you didn't say to your parents, "I'm not going."

A: No. I went with my preacher. We were buddies. Wherever he went, I went with him. If he wanted something, all that kept him happy was (inaudible).

M1: And which priest is this, Father [Gondaleo?]?

A: No, Father Patrick.

M1: Father Patrick.

A: This is Father Patrick.

M1: OK.

A: I think I told you, we used to go to (inaudible) house.

Didn't have any cars, people didn't have any money to get cars, so what they would do is, somebody would pick us up, go to the houses --

(break in audio)

Q: Tell me about how you baptized the children.

A: If the people didn't have any cars -- of course a lot didn't have any money and they were poor -- and we were a poor church at that time anyway. So what we would do is somebody would pick us up, and we would take the Bible and the (inaudible) --

Q: You and the priest and who else?

A: Just the two of us.

Q: Then you were the assistant to the priest?

A: Yeah. We would go to the house, we would baptize the baby in the house. What we would do afterwards: we would go into the dining room, eat, and then take this back home.

Q: (inaudible) with him?

A: No no, he had a pin. He blessed the water. Of course, we didn't have any cars. Somebody would always pick us up.

Q: Did he do any other services in the homes?

A: (inaudible) he never did any weddings that I know. But whatever it was, if somebody was sick at that time, he would go to the house, bless them. He got around, and in later years, when his wife died, he used to live in the church. He grew up on High Street, the AAA building. He came there a few years after his wife had passed away. I used to get up at the five in the morning to go put coal on the stove so it would be in the furnace so we would have heat on Sundays because it would be cold.

Q: In the church?

A: In the church. Didn't have a caretaker. (inaudible) so I lived about four blocks away from the church. I'd call my brothers, "Come on, you want to come?" "You go."

Q: How old were you at the time?

A: About twelve years old. I would go and put coal on the stove. And after his wife died, he lived in the church years ago.

Q: So at that time the priest primarily did everything in the churches?

A: Yeah. And he only got \$300 a month. He used to give \$100 back to the church. (inaudible) down on Right Street.

(inaudible) First of all, I used to see him get \$300, and think, how is he going to live on \$300? Who knew they were going to get what they were getting? And he stayed there. He was there 'til -- I got out of service, he was still there. He used to help with the services, but he lived in the church, and he died.

Q: How old were you when you went into the service?

A: It was 1972.

Q: Did you volunteer?

A: (inaudible) yes.

Q: And where did you go?

A: I went to Korea. In 1954 I came home. Then I went back to the church (inaudible) used to come to our house all the time, we used to have parties in our house. Again, all the big parties we had in the house. (inaudible) they used to sit there any never run out of food.

Q: Let me ask you something -- how did your mother prepare for -- and it was really the men's Name Day that they celebrated. How did your mother prepare for your father's Name Day?

A: They just thought way ahead of time. Make food and get him ready, and then sit there the main day. Stay in that kitchen...

Q: The whole day?

A: The whole day.

Q: You just had people coming in and out?

A: Coming in and out. Some would come in in the beginning. They'd be there, then after a while they'd start coming in and out, and who came back was just the same. [Greek] and that was it, they'd leave.

Q: What kind of thing did your mother prepare beside [Greek]?

A: One Sunday would be leg of lamb. Following week would be chicken soup or chicken. She made all the Greek foods, stuffed tomatoes, all the foods that could possibly turn up. (multiple conversations; inaudible) Well, they say that the manatas made the best (inaudible) paper-thin, but that's what made them.

Q: Did they make the flours, or did they just do the [Greek]?
The roll.

A: No, no roll.

Q: My father used to do that too.

A: (inaudible).

Q: Yes. My favorite -- but we had it at Christmas time.

A: Christmas time -- put them in the oven, it's a feta cheese.

Q: Yes, exactly. Or we would put them on top of the gas burner to get them a little burned -- absolutely would adore the [Greek].

A: We didn't have the [quiestos?], we had the [papsos?] (inaudible) had our grandfather knocking on our door, six o'clock in the morning (inaudible) I don't know where they came from. Sitting there with the fish and stuff. Bread and onions, cheese, beer, wine.

M1: Your grandfather (inaudible) from New York, right? I remember.

A: My father's father came from Massachusetts.

Q: For his Name Day, or just --

A: Whenever. We never knew when we were going to see him. He'd just come down and bang on your door, and you better open up. My grandfather from New York...

Q: How did he come down from Massachusetts?

A: He'd take buses and trains.

Q: His wife had died? Your grandma died.

A: Yeah, she died. When I was young, she died (inaudible).

Q: Even in Newark? When they got there, they were in the house?

A: I thought so, because most of them, when I was growing up, was (inaudible) and everybody went there. We didn't have professional -- (multiple conversations; inaudible) not me, not my mother.

Q: Who --

A: Kula. Yeah, Kula. She lived upstairs, and she would sit on our porch and practice (inaudible) stay in here, act like everybody else does. (inaudible) they get you more sicker than you were.

Q: Oh yeah, who was this lady?

A: Kula --

M1: I remember her. Also Andrew Zezos, remember Andrew Zezos?

Q: Maybe.

A: His mother was the one who was able to take away the evil eye. (inaudible) remember? If someone got sick, they would call her. (inaudible)

Q: You did?

A: Our priest was. See, our father Cotalana, he believed in the evil eye. He believed all that stuff. He saw premonitions all the time. He knew we were going to have

problems with our new property -- he predicted that he was going to die by sixty years old, which he did, and he would see things that we are going to have a hard time with, and everything he would say come out true.

Q: Well, I think our religion does believe in the evil eye, and --

A: The devil.

Q: And I remember, if someone praised you, you would say, [Greek].

A: My wife says that now, or my daughter, because they're always talking about Dean. (inaudible)

Q: So you were involved in exorcism?

A: No no.

Q: In just the evil eye.

A: Somebody showed me something. I tried a couple of times.

Q: Did it work?

A: Seemed to work. [Greek]

Q: OK. How did your church celebrate its Saints' Day? And March 25th, [Greek], Independence Day, what are some of the preparations for it, how did they celebrate it?

A: We'd all have, (inaudible) otherwise -- if it was a real big one of the church -- of course, we had a dinner afterwards.

Q: Right. And usually you had some hierarch of the church come --

A: They would come in (inaudible).

Q: Which archbishops came to Saint Demetrius on the holy day?
On Saint Demetrius Day?

A: I think we had --

Q: (inaudible)

A: (inaudible) day they couldn't come, they would send some bishop down. There would always be a bishop. And there would always be lots of (inaudible).

Q: Of the vespers.

A: The vespers. Next day, it was Sunday. We'd get maybe ten, twelve people to go down and help (inaudible).

Q: So you celebrated on the day, you didn't wait until if it was (inaudible)?

A: No, we celebrated the vesper and the next day.

Q: And the next day.

A: (inaudible) wanted to do in their houses, we'd do. We'd go to church to celebrate two nights. One night (inaudible) restaurant.

Q: How about March 25th, Greek Independence Day (inaudible), how did you celebrate that?

A: With plays, poetry, but then everybody would go to --

Q: Oh, for the --

A: For the 25th Anniversary, for the parade.

Q: Used to be on that day, no matter when it was. Right, OK.

A: That time (inaudible).

Q: Were you involved in any of the plays that were presented?

A: Yeah.

Q: Did they present the plays after church services, during --

A: No, the only things they held during church services were the songs. Everything else was done afterwards. I was involved in some of the plays we did.

Q: And people would come, and...?

A: Yeah, it would be a full house. There was nothing else for them to do. It was a big night out for them. And after the plays we would have dances. And we would sit and eat.

M1: What year were you president of the church?

A: '74. (inaudible) I was president over there. (inaudible) signed up here, I was going to both churches.

M1: Two years. And they were located on -- Clint Avenue and Right Street.

A: Right Street.

Q: Why did they buy that church on Clint Avenue? What church was that, prior to...?

A: (inaudible).

Q: I think it was a Presbyterian church, I'm not sure.

A: It wasn't a Presbyterian. They needed more room, so they went out. In fact, everybody else found out about the church after we bought it, between the priests (inaudible) which was a good move, we had more than we did before. We used to have all kinds of things.

Q: Who was the priest at the time, father Papas?

A: Father Papas.

Q: Now, Stillpool has told us that there was a schism of the Saint Demetrius church at one time, and it became Saint George, and then it got together again? It must have been before your time?

A: I always new it, since the time I was a little kid, as Saint Demetrius. Everywhere we moved, it was Saint Demetrius. But maybe after they split because they were together with Saint Nicholas --

Q: No, this was after they were Saint Demetrius, Father Papas was thrown out of the church, he said, and he formed his own -- a group went with him, and they made Saint George's.

A: Had to be way before my time.

Q: Way before, well because, I had never heard of it...

A: 82. That's the difference, the age-gap. (inaudible) because he said he had left, then he came back because of the schism. Because we started small on Bank Street (inaudible). But again, it was just a church. And upstairs, we used to have to open a trap door to get upstairs and go to school. It was like a choir loft. Because we had nothing else to use. Then we went to AAA, which again was terrible. We used to have church upstairs, I think it was the third floor. Just imagine carrying caskets and stuff. It was a lot of rooms, and they're big, and the biggest room was up there, and that's where the church (inaudible) they were just trying to upgrade themselves, because at that time, they didn't have -- until we all got together and started working -- when I left there we had \$600,000. (inaudible) and he said "We don't care what you call the church, but we want to build it. Because again, they thought that all the people were going to live in Newark forever. Everybody was doing good, and churches were all filling up. But it didn't work that way. We had only a couple of pieces of property to hold (inaudible) church, because we had no place to go.

M1: Where did you have the property? You owned property.

A: We owned property on Richfield Road and Maplewood. We owned three houses in that neighborhood. (inaudible) And then we found another piece of property in New South Orange. And again there was no room there. I was president, but I didn't want to go to either place. Because we used to do the same thing, we were going to end up with a church and nothing for the youth. But because they said they wanted it (inaudible) and finally we sold them all, and they came down and they bought that property and (inaudible). So we had our ups and downs for quite a while. See how that goes.

Q: Anything else that you can tell us about life in Newark?

A: Life in Newark was beautiful.

Q: Life with your family?

A: It was some of the greatest times we've ever had. We used to hop on the train, we'd go to New York. If we had a car we'd go some places, and a lot more than we do today. The dances that we had together with the Saint Nicholas Orange, it was always combined, the three. Do you remember the dance that we had in the hotel, up in Orange? The cops came in? We had a bus load that came down from Canada for the dance, and the fire department came in and said, "Put one more person in here and we are going to close you up." They

were coming out of the left. I'm telling you, that time, everybody got along together, we had some good times.

Q: Yes, that's very true, everybody did get along, the youth got along.

A: The youth -- we had so many things going. And it was always combined.

Q: Well that's because at that time, the involvement was within the Greek community, it was not the involvement outside of the Greek community.

A: (inaudible).

M1: You're right, the community, because each city had its own Greek community -- Jersey City, Trenton, Newark, what have you.

A: (inaudible) everybody's all over the place. Them days, you walked out of your door and you saw your friends. You knew who they were, you got along together, so every affair we had was a sell-out. Same thing with our parents. Every affair was a sell-out because everybody saw each other except (inaudible) go down to the wide-away (inaudible) when we had some of the biggest names in the Greek world there was. This was a time for them to forget about everything and have a good time, and they did. They worked hard for everything they had.

Q: And it was a time, too, when they introduced their children to each other. Not that -- well, I guess most of the marriages at that time came from the introductions.

A: At that time, the marriages were all Greek-Greek.
(inaudible) because why, because there's nobody around now. I mean, if it wasn't for the youth, how would they meet, anyway?

M1: Now we've got a lot of marriages here, where are they going to see them now? (inaudible) what they lack is the interpersonal community involvement that we are talking about here, because they schedule athletic events, and (inaudible) dance.

A: When do you see all these people?

M1: Come out of your door, and your next-door neighbor is Greek, and the kids five blocks away come walking by and you start talking to them (inaudible)

A: They have a dance for a few of the youth. (inaudible) they don't get to see each other as much (inaudible) school and work and what not. So they were there. You went to church and you saw these people, day in and day out. Everything was at the church, the kids were all there, they had no other place to go.

Q: And the family parties too, I mean, at all generations, it wasn't just --

A: (inaudible) involvement -- back then, everybody was involved, everybody belonged to organizations, everybody played sports, but if you went back to the community, and even if you stuck your head outside or took a walk, there would be somebody that you would know. You could open the window from your house and talk to the next one.

Q: I didn't have that, the only place (inaudible) was in Greek school (inaudible) Greeks that were on Springfield Avenue were all adults, and my friends were not Greek friends from school -- they were friends on Springfield Avenue that I associated with.

A: More like West Market, 93 West Market Street. Just open a window and talk to each other. (inaudible)

Q: The Greeks I met were at family parties, at Greek school --

A: Parties, weekends, dances --

Q: (inaudible) Monte Carlo, and that's where my parents made friends (inaudible) I baptized their children. So it was a little different. Anything else, Gus, that you can think of? Well, when you think of things, Gus, you can answer that.

M1: Let your brother (inaudible).

A: Yeah, he said "Have them. If I'd have known, I would have..." (inaudible).

Q: And any photographs, and...

M1: Yeah, get photographs, if you have anything, that's something else. Or any --

End - Gus Genakis